



Scottish Charity Number
SCO 33311

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School Building Update

The work on the existing roofs has been completed and the new classroom block is progressing well. Bunk beds have been made for the temporary dormitory so the sponsored children are now based at the school all the time. We hope to have an architect's plan for the layout of the school completed soon and we can then decide what our target should be for the next phase of building. One possibility would be to build a dormitory and a second shower and toilet block which would mean that by next year there would be six classrooms and a dormitory on the site. That would allow the headmaster to bring in another class of 30 students and one of the existing classrooms could be used as a computer room and library. When we visit in June or July we will discuss all the possibilities with Baraka and Ntimba as it will probably take until then to complete the admin block and the new double classroom.

The new classrooms: these two photos below were taken at the end of November 2011.



Admin Block with tin roof. This will be a store and office space.



Ntimba and builder working on the new classroom

Since November the grounds around the admin block have been cleared of rubble and the interior walls finished with plaster and the floor made. The roofs have been finished and two of the existing classrooms have been converted into temporary dormitories. The photos below show the new bunk beds with their mosquito nets in place. The children are very excited to have these new dormitories to sleep in.



The temporary dormitory building



The new bunk beds and mosquito nets

Work has also been done on the kitchens to provide a secure covered area where the children's meals can be prepared and for their food to be stored. The hostel building is still being rented and it provides further storage room for food etc. Now that the children are sleeping in the dormitory it means there will be room for Alice and Louise to stay at the hostel when they visit later this year. The date for their visit will be probably be July and they are likely to be joined by a new volunteer who is keen to help with the project.

A new teacher called Julius has been appointed by Baraka and he will teach the grade one students who graduated at the end of last year. Mama Nditi will continue to work with the nursery children. A new matron will be employed who can speak English with the children so that the children are encouraged to speak English both in and out of the classroom.

Sponsorship

There are issues with two of the sponsored children in that they are being kept off school to work in the fields. We will speak to these parents when we visit and explain that their children are in danger of losing their place at the school. We hope to encourage them not to keep the children off to work in the fields and explain that they will fall behind in their school work. Another child has moved out of the region and is now too far away to attend school. We will give these children a few weeks to see if they return and if not we will speak to their sponsors about taking a different child. We have three local children identified by Malaika who would like to start school and are waiting for photographs and information to be sent to us so that sponsor packs can be prepared.

We hope the 29 sponsored children at the school will be joined by 30 paying children. Baraka already has six new children ready to start and intends to advertise the school in February when he is aiming to bring the school role to a minimum of 45 and a maximum of 60. This will allow him to employ more staff including another assistant teacher.

Louise has recently made contact with Neil Mathers of Children of Songea and Neil is going to visit Namanditi School when he is in Songea during February and take up to date photographs of the children and the school buildings. In turn we will do the same for his project in Songea when we visit and can learn from each others projects.

Small business ideas

At a recent meeting of the Scottish Tanzania Network (TzSN) Louise heard from Frederick Longino about a project at Mwanza in the North of Tanzania where women were trained to make soap and created a successful small business. This seems a fairly easy and inexpensive venture to set up so Louise and Alice intend to make some samples here and attend a class, so that they learn how to do it. They will then be able to demonstrate how to make soap to a group of women from Namanditi when they visit the project. We also intend to try and set up the maize mill in an existing partly built room so that grinding maize can also become a small business on the school site. The school will benefit from a share in the profits of each of these businesses which can be payable in soap and ground maize for the school.

Donations

We would like to thank Buttercup Training who raised £82 for the project before Christmas. It is a great help to have these donations to pay for medicine for the children many of whom were ill with malaria when they started back at school in January.

Raffle Results

We raised £1000 from the sale of tickets and have three winners: First prize went to Patsy Mottram, second prize went to Mark Cashley of Alba Chiropractic and third prize went to Anne Lawrie. Congratulations to the lucky winners and thanks to all those who bought tickets.

Treasurer

Gill Thomson will retire as treasurer in March this year and to date we have no replacement. If there is anyone out there who could come to meetings four or five times a year and would like to be part of our team please contact Louise Johnstone at 01382 561 282.